FLAUNDEN OLD CHURCH, HERTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Your kindness in giving place to my former communication (the Priory) in your most valuable paper (THE BUILDER), has induced me to send you the inclosed sketch and description of an old church, which, until within a few months back, was standing near the little village of Flaunden in this county; should you deem them worthy to be recorded in your paper, I beg your acceptance of them, and with hearty wishes for the welfare of THE BUILDER,

Believe me, &c. A SUBSCRIBER.

King's Langley, Herts, March 9th, 1844.

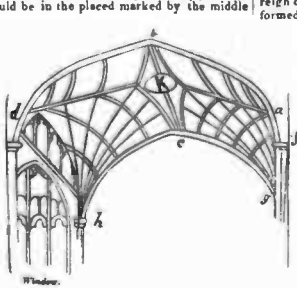
The village (to which the old church above delineated belonged, and of which but a very small portion now remains to mark its spot, the greater portion of it having been taken down shortly after the erection of the present new church, a neat early Gothic building, situated at an easy distance from the village), lies at the south-west extremity of the parish of Hemel Hempsted, in this county, of which it is a hamlet. The church stood at about a mile from the village, in a beautiful valley, watered by a fine trout-stream, called the Chesham River. The interior of the church contained no monuments of the dead, consequently afforded but little or nothing to gratify the curiosity of the antiquary; yet, when considered as a feature of a landscape, in combination with the beautifully wooded country by which it was surrounded, it had a most picturesque effect. For many years it was inhabited by three or four poor families. It was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and was an appendant to the church of Hemel Hempsted, by the vicar of which the cure was constantly supplied. In the year 1477, the inhabitants of this ville were empowered by bull of Pope Sextus the Fourth to bury their dead within the precincts of this church, by reason of its distance from the mother-church of Hempsted.

KING'S COLLEGE VAULTING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—I must respectfully beg to dissent from the statement urged by your correspondent, Mr. Hutt, relative to the vaulting of King's College Chapel, although a much clearer and mathematically deduced supposition is to be found in "Pratt's Mechanical Philosophy."

The annexed perspective sketch of one "severey" will shew that the rib *d K a* is not a row of key-stones, but rather an abutment similar to *f*; that the key-stones (*), if any, would be in the placed marked by the middle or lower cross-band. We are also well aware how stonework can be cored, or made to overhang, as in the early cyclopæan arches, and the internal crowning members of a few of the Greek hypethral temples; probably a better known illustration would be a geometrical staircase, the under side of the winders of which may not unfrequently be found of the same contour as the roof of King's Chapel, which tends to the conjecture that this fan-vaulting is constructed on the same principle, the thickness of wall and weight of parapet and pinnacles preventing the fall.



Window.

If we take a "retrospective review" of the introduction of stone-vaulting, we find that it was formed by arches, springing from corbels in the side walls between the windows, and composed of plain ribs called "cross-springers," with a key-stone in the centre; the interstices were filled up with some lighter materials.

That the principle of their construction became better known and practised about the reign of Edward III. is apparent, by their being formed of pendant semi-cones, covered with foliated panel work, called *fan-tracery*, from the design resembling a fan spread open.

What architect ever considered that an arch or vault consisted of all series of key-stones? Many voussoirs, but *one* key-stone, as its name seems to im-

ply, which having been inserted in a circular aperture, could be removed as stated in your number of December 9. For instance, we see shafts and holes for various purposes left in parts of

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